Demonstration by Government employees

1325. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government employees held a demonstration at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on Wednesday the 30th May, 2001 against "anti-employee policies" of the Central Government;

(b) if so, what is the charter of their demands; and

(c) what is the repercussion of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Some employees/workers, under the aegis of Joint Platform of Action of Government and Associated Services Employees Organisations, held a march from Jantar Mantar to Parliament House on 30th May, 2001 in protest against certain policies of the Government, including downsizing of Government departments, non-filling of vacant posts, reduction of 10% strength of the employees, privatization and disinvestments.

(c) With the object of promoting harmonious relations and of securing the greatest measures of cooperation between the Government, in its capacity as employer, and the general body of its employees, Government had, in consultation with the Staff side, established in 1966 the scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration for Central Government employees. Under the Scheme, a well-defined machinery already exists to settle matters of common concern, including service conditions of employees and other related issues, through the process of negotiation and arbitration. The issues raised in the charter of demands can be considered through this mechanism.